## HONORING ARBELLA PERKINS EWING

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Arbella Perkins Ewing in celebration of her 114th birthday on Thursday, March 13, 2008.

As the third-oldest living person in the world and the second-oldest living American, Ms. Ewing is a fixture of the Dallas community.

Born in 1894 on a farm in Freestone County, Mississippi, as one of 12 children and the great-granddaughter of Mississippi slaves, Ms. Ewing endured continual racial problems that eventually led to her move to Dallas. In 1936, she and her husband Frank settled into a house in South Dallas, where she lived until she was 106.

As a wife and a mother to one daughter, Ms. Ewing not only made sure to keep a clean house for her own family, but extended her charity beyond her own home, often cooking for her sick neighbors.

Known as a God-fearing woman, her faith has greatly contributed to her way of life. I am reminded of a quote by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ''The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important.'' I can truly say that the quality of Ms. Ewing's life extends past even her longevity. Her reputation for ''good living'' includes not smoking or drinking, eating healthily, and not staying out late. She serves as an example for all of us to honor our bodies and cherish our health.

After her husband and daughter passed away in the 1970s, Ms. Ewing lived an independent and self-sufficient life until a fall that broke her hip in 2007 at the age of 113. Ms. Ewing's strength and resolve has seen her though this rough time of surgery into recovery much as it saw her through the years of the Great Depression, Jim Crow segregation and the Civil Rights Era.

Ms. Ewing stands as a beacon of will and determination. She makes us all mindful that a life well spent is a life worth living.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Arbella Perkins Ewing on reaching the monumental age of 114. I wish her continued life, good health and strength.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT IMPROVEMENT ACT

### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Congressional Review Act Improvement Act.

This legislation would cut government waste by reducing duplicative paperwork and relieving some of the administrative burdens that are currently mandated by the Congressional Review Act, the congressional review mechanism of agency rules. The Congressional Review Act requires that all agencies promulgating a rule must submit to both Houses of Congress, and to the Comptroller General at the Government Accountability Office, a report that contains a copy of the rule, a concise general statement describing the rule, and the proposed effective date of the rule. Thus, under current law, the same material is submitted, housed, and printed at four different governmental entities.

Specifically, this legislation would eliminate the requirement that agencies submit their rules that are printed in the Federal Register to each House of Congress. Instead of receiving the full submission of each individual rule, the House and Senate would receive a weekly list of all rules from the Comptroller General. The House and Senate would then enter that list into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD with a statement of referral for each rule. Under these revisions, agencies would still be required to submit rules and reports to each House of Congress that were not printed in the Federal Register, and Congress could still employ the procedures in the Congressional Review Act to disapprove agency rules.

I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors to this legislation that makes commonsense modifications of the Congressional Review Act.

## A TRIBUTE TO DONALD S. LOPEZ

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of LTC Donald S. Lopez, a military aviation pioneer and decorated hero who recently passed away at the age of 84.

Colonel Lopez was born on July 15, 1923, in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from the Air Force Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering and a master's degree in aeronautics from the California Institute of Technology.

In preparation for World War II, Colonel Lopez enlisted and received his pilot's license in 1943. He was promptly sent to China and served with many veterans of the legendary American Flying Tigers, flying 101 missions and recording five victories, qualifying him to be recognized as an ''ace.''

Upon his return from China, Colonel Lopez was an Air Force test pilot for 6 years and went on to fly F–86s in Korea. During the next 6 years, he taught aeronautics at the Air Force Academy. During his military career, Colonel Lopez earned the Silver Star, two awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross, and three awards of the Air Medal.

Following his retirement from the Air Force in 1964, Colonel Lopez worked as a systems engineer on the Apollo-Saturn Launch Vehicle and the Skylab Orbital Workshop.

Colonel Lopez joined the Smithsonian in 1972 and was instrumental in planning the National Air and Space Museum. He served as deputy director of the museum from 1983 until 1990 and returned to the position in 1996.

I had the honor of meeting with Colonel Lopez while preparing to lead a congressional delegation to China last August. Colonel Lopez provided me with valuable insight into the experiences of the American Flying Tigers who worked with the Chinese military during World War II and the courageous pilots who flew supplies to them over the treacherous Hump Route from India at great peril.

Our visit to Kunming, China for a memorial ceremony and meeting with Chinese World War II veterans was an unforgettable and powerful reminder of the extraordinary service provided to our country by patriots such as Colonel Lopez.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Lopez served our Nation with the utmost dedication and is a true American hero. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to Glindal Lopez; their two children, Don and Joy; and Laura, his granddaughter.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE STATE COLLEGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL MASTER SINGERS PERFORMANCE AT CARNEGIE HALL

### HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a talented high school choir in my district, the State College Area High School Master Singers of State College, PA, which was chosen to perform at New York City's world-renowned Carnegie Hall on March 10, 2008.

The State College Area High School Master Singers were selected out of dozens of high schools across the country to perform in this concert. The event featured 200 students from four States, and was the capstone of Carnegie Hall's yearlong National High School Choral Festival. The concert was conducted by Dr. Craig Jessop, esteemed music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, who was working with the choirs and their conductors throughout the year. Known best for their legendary musical performances, Carnegie Hall is also a pioneer of music education, and I am thrilled that these students were given such a remarkable opportunity to showcase their talent.

Led by Robert Drafall, the Master Singers is comprised of sophomores, juniors and seniors, and performs in a variety of venues as well as performing at the Heinz Chapel Chamber Choir Invitational, The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, and The Celebration of African American Spirituals. The Master Singers have distinguished themselves in earning superior ratings at adjudicated festivals in New York City, Toronto, Virginia Beach, and Chicago. They were invited to participate in a master class with the famed a cappella ensemble Chanticleer, and they have collaborated with the Central Pennsylvania Youth Orchestra and with the State College Choral Society and Orchestra in a performance featuring Metropolitan Opera Audition winners.

I am privileged to have one of the four schools in the Nation chosen for the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival residing in my Pennsylvania district. I commend these students and their leaders for their accomplishment, and congratulate them for representing the State of Pennsylvania in their performance at the famed Carnegie Hall on March 10th.